



General Assembly

## ***Substitute Bill No. 70***

*January Session, 2013*



### ***AN ACT RESTORING BENEFITS TO VETERANS DISCHARGED UNDER "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL".***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) For purposes of this  
2       section, "veteran" means any person discharged or released from active  
3       service in the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103 of the general  
4       statutes, regardless of his or her discharge classification.
- 5       (b) If the federal government acts to reinstate eligibility for benefits  
6       to discharged veterans, regardless of their discharge classification, who  
7       have been or otherwise would be denied such benefits solely on the  
8       basis of sexual orientation pursuant to any current or former federal  
9       policy prohibiting homosexual personnel from serving in the armed  
10      forces, the state shall reinstate eligibility for any state benefits such  
11      veterans were or otherwise would have been denied due to such  
12      federal policy.
- 13      (c) To the extent practicable, the Department of Veterans' Affairs  
14      shall (1) provide information on its Internet web site regarding legal  
15      services organizations that assist veterans in military discharge  
16      upgrades, including, but not limited to, links to such organizations'  
17      Internet web sites, and (2) provide printed resources concerning  
18      methods for obtaining military discharge upgrades, which are created  
19      by such legal services organizations, to veterans at the department's

20 offices and facilities and disseminate such resources to local veterans'  
21 advisory committees, as described in section 27-135 of the general  
22 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	New section
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***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In section 1(c)(1), "Internet" was added for purposes of clarity.

**VA**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*